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NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

year ended 31st December, 1970



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SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1970-1971

Chairman:

Councillor S. Chapman

Deputy Chairman:

Councillor E. Stephens, J.P.

Councillor Mrs. M. Cook

" G. Harrison

" D. Hodson

" J.F. Lenaghan

" T.D. Marshall

" J.C. Murray

" T.G. Rogers

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

H.C.T. Smith, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

John Corney, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

Trevor Harris, M.A.P.H.I.

Frederick William Dixon, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector:

David John Farquhar

Clerk/Shorthand Typist:

Miss M.K. Brown

Junior Clerk:

Miss P. Ormston (resigned 25th October, 1970)

Miss M. Wright (appointed 30th November, 1970)

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Telephone: Lemington 674112/3
 675872
 679191

Council Offices,
Newburn,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
NE15 8QJ.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Newburn.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report
on the health of the district for 1970.

The birth rate for Newburn has for the last five years been at around the same rate as that for England and Wales. In this connection it is interesting to note that the birth rate for Newcastle County Borough and for the County of Northumberland has been well below the national figure. Some of the other districts adjacent to Newcastle have had a very low birth rate. The explanation for this would seem to lie in the type of housing in the district. This district has some large private housing estates which are favoured by recently married couples. The large house building programme of the Council in recent years has also meant that the waiting time for a Council house is now relatively short.

Again the houses vacated by persons moving into Council accommodation are very often then occupied by the recently married.

The death rate in Newburn is above the national average, but not above the average for the region. Vital statistics relating to still-births and infant deaths are at a low level this year.

No mention of water supply has been made in my section of the report since 1964. The supply from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company has remained at a consistently high level of purity. Sampling has revealed a percentage of excellent samples well above 99%, when a figure of 97% is regarded as a national standard. Fluoride has been added to the supply since October 1968, and chemical analysis reveals that this fluoride is maintained close to the optimum of 1.0 milligrams per litre. The water is of moderate hardness, which is of interest in view of the recent work showing an association between softness of water and the incidence of cardio-vascular disease.

As detailed in Mr. Corney's section of the report, substantial progress was made with slum clearance. By 1972 the really bad streets should be out of the way. Thereafter our task will be much more difficult because although there are still a number of unfit properties, they often are to be found in terraces which also contain a percentage of well maintained houses with amenities.

In 1970 Mrs. Evelyn Watson retired from the Council. Mrs. Watson had been Chairman of the Health Committee since 1960, also a member of the Northumberland Executive Council and certain committees of Northumberland County Council dealing with social and welfare matters. In all this work Mrs. Watson, despite poor health, was very active in promoting the welfare of the people whom she served, bringing to the work a wealth of knowledge and a very practical approach to the many problems which beset the area. She was particularly interested in smoke control, and the fact that Newburn is one of the leading authorities on Tyneside with almost 40% of the properties in smoke controlled areas is in no small measure due to the tireless efforts of Mrs. Watson.

A Medical Officer of Health does very little without the help of other persons. Once again I would like to thank the local doctors and the other officers of the Council for their co-operation. In the Department, being a part-time officer, I have had to lean heavily on the ready co-operation of Mr. Corney on all matters, and I would like to place on record my debt to him, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Harris, Mr. Farquhar, Miss Brown and Miss Wright.

Lastly I would like to thank the members of the Council for their continuing interest in and ready support of the work of this Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H.C.T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health

NEWBURN URBAN DISTRICT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,648
Registrar General's estimated population	..	..					38,720
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book	..						13,313
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,296,865
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1p)	..	..	..	..			£12,700

Population trends:

1951	..	..	..	..	21,890
1956	..	..	..	..	25,020
1961	..	..	..	..	27,980
1962	..	..	..	..	29,000
1963	..	..	..	..	30,100
1964	..	..	..	..	30,730
1965	..	..	..	..	31,630
1966	..	..	..	..	32,480
1967	..	..	..	..	33,230
1968	..	..	..	..	34,100
1969	..	..	..	..	37,600
1970	..	..	..	..	38,720

VITAL STATISTICS

	Numbers			Rates
	M	F	Total	
Live Births	335	292	627	
Crude birth rate per 1,000 population				16.2
Comparability factor 1.05				
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				17.0
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate				1.06
Illegitimate Live Births	18	17	35	
Illegitimate live birth rate per 100 live births				5.6
Still-births	2	1	3	
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births				4.8
Total Live and Still-Births	337	293	630	
Infant Deaths (Deaths in first year of life) ..	7	1	8	
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				12.8
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000				
legitimate live births				13.5
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000				
illegitimate live births				Nil
Neonatal Deaths (Deaths in first four weeks of life)	2	1	3	
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births				4.8
Early Neonatal Deaths (Deaths in first week of life)	1	1	2	
Perinatal Deaths (Still-births, plus deaths in				
first week of life)	3	2	5	
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live				
and still-births				7.9
Maternal Deaths (Deaths resulting from childbirth				
or abortion)		Nil		
Deaths	189	179	368	
Crude death rate per 1,000 population				9.5
Comparability factor 1.39				
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				13.2
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate				1.13

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	(Adjusted) Birth Rate	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still-Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	(Adjusted) Death Rate
1956-1960	16.7	1.9	22.2	33.6	25.6	44.4	13.6
1961-1965	17.5	3.3	18.6	19.5	14.1	31.4	13.3
1966-1970	16.8	4.8	8.8	18.7	11.2	16.8	12.8
1966	16.2	4.5	9.1	18.5	11.1	18.3	12.8
1967	17.3	4.7	14.8	20.1	15.1	29.7	12.7
1968	16.4	4.6	5.1	22.3	12.0	10.2	13.2
1969	17.1	4.6	8.1	19.6	13.0	17.8	12.2
1970	17.0	5.6	4.8	12.8	4.8	7.9	13.2

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS - 1970

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegitimate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Comparability Factors	
								Births	Deaths
England & Wales	16.0	8.2	13.0	18.2	12.3	23.5	11.7	1.00	1.00
Northumberland Admin. County	14.0	5.7	12.8	16.0	10.9	21.4	12.9	1.01	1.03
Newcastle C.B.	14.1	12.0	11.6	20.4	12.6	20.5	14.7	1.00	1.10
South Area of Northumberland	12.2	5.6	11.7	11.7	7.6	17.7	12.8	0.96	1.00
Gosforth U.D.	12.3	5.8	11.4	8.6	8.6	19.9	10.0	0.97	0.78
Newburn U.D.	17.0	5.6	4.8	12.8	4.8	7.9	13.2	1.06	1.39
Prudhoe U.D.	11.1	3.1	22.6	7.7	7.7	22.6	14.0	0.94	1.12
Castle Ward R.D.	8.1	6.3	19.7	14.3	11.5	30.9	12.2	0.86	0.75

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS - 1966-70

	Adjusted Birth Rate	Illegitimate Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Adjusted Death Rate
England & Wales	16.9	8.3	14.1	18.3	12.4	24.6	11.6
Northumberland Admin. County	14.5	5.6	13.9	17.2	12.0	23.7	12.8
Newcastle C.B.	15.0	11.8	14.7	21.3	12.8	24.7	14.0
South Area of Northumberland	13.0	4.8	10.6	14.9	11.2	19.5	12.3
Gosforth U.D.	13.2	5.1	10.7	11.2	9.6	18.5	10.9
Newburn U.D.	16.8	4.8	8.8	18.7	11.2	16.8	12.8
Prudhoe U.D.	12.1	3.8	16.0	18.3	10.7	21.2	13.9
Castle Ward R.D.	9.7	5.0	12.1	15.4	13.0	23.9	10.6

CAUSES OF STILL-BIRTHS

Ante partum haemorrhage	..	..	..	1
Anencephaly	..	..	..	1
Cause unknown	..	..	..	1
				<hr/>
				3
				<hr/>

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 week	1-4 weeks	4 weeks - 1 year	Total
Atelectasis	1	-	-	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	-	1	-	1
Congenital heart disease	1	-	-	1
Porencephalic cyst	-	-	1	1
Pierre-robin syndrome	-	-	1	1
Bronchopneumonia	-	-	1	1
Renal vein thrombosis	-	-	1	1
Inhalation of vomit	-	-	1	1
	2	1	5	8

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH 1970

Cause of Death	M	F	Total	%
Cancer	38	29	67	18.2
Ischaemic heart disease	54	40	94	25.6
Cerebro vascular disease	22	45	67	18.2
All other heart and circulatory disease	22	28	50	13.6
Respiratory disease	29	19	48	13.0
All other diseases	14	11	25	6.8
Accidents and suicide	10	7	17	4.6
	189	179	368	100.0

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. - 1 year	Age in Years							75 & over		
					1-5	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-	
B 5 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19 (1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal cavity etc.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19 (2) Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19 (4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B19 (5) Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
B19 (6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-
B19 (7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
B19 (8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
B19 (9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
B19 (10) Leukaemia	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B19 (11) Other malignant neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1970 (Continued)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. - 1 year	Age in Years							65-	75 & over
					1-5	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		
B20 Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46 (1) Other endocrine etc. diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
B46 (3) Mental Disorders	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B26 Chronic Rheumatic heart disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B27 Hypertensive disease	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	1
B28 Ischaemic heart disease	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
B29 Other forms of heart disease	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2
B30 Cerebrovascular disease	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
B46 (6) Other diseases of circulatory system	F	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	19	14	10
B31 Influenza	M	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	15	16
B32 Pneumonia	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	M	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6	12
	F	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10	34
	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	12
	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	2
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	6

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1970 (Continued)

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 wks.	4 wks. - 1 year	Age in Years							75 & over
					1-5	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-		65-
B33 (1) Bronchitis and emphysema	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	4	3	
B46 (7) Other diseases of respiratory system	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
B46 (8) Other diseases of digestive system	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
B38 Nephritis and nephrosis	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	
B46 (9) Other diseases, genito-urinary system	F	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
B42 Congenital anomalies	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	3	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	
B43 Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
B45 Symptoms and ill defined conditions	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE47 Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
BE48 All other accidents	M	8	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	
BE50 All other external causes	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	189	2	5	-	2	2	18	57	50	48	
	F	179	1	-	-	-	2	14	14	54	91	

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS 1970

Cause of Death	Sex	Age							Total
		15+	25+	35+	45+	55+	65+	75+	
<u>Motor vehicle accidents</u>									
Pedestrian/Motor Car	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Passenger in car/crashed into wall	F	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<u>Industrial accidents</u>									
Caught up in machinery	M	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
<u>All other accidents</u>									
Falls	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Fractured femur	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4
Other fractures	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Electrocution (electric drill)	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Fall due to mishap with electric hedge cutter	M	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Carbon monoxide poisoning	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Overdose of tablets (open verdict)	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Drowning (open verdict)	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	M	2	1	1	-	1	1	3	9
	F	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	7

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New cases notified				Inward Transfers			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
20 - 24 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	-
35 - 44 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
55 - 64 years	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
	6	4	-	3	2	1	1	-

Comparison with previous years.

Years	New Cases	Inward Transfers	Deaths
Average 1946-50	38	-	13
" 1951-55	37	17	5
" 1956-60	20	13	2
" 1961-65	16	4	1
1966	7	1	-
1967	8	3	-
1968	7	2	1
1969	4	2	3
1970	13	4	1

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1970

	Number of cases on register at commencement of year		Number of cases notified for the first time		Inward Transfers		Number of cases which have been restored to the register during the year		Number of cases removed from register		Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	
	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.	P.	N.P.
Males	45	2	6	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	53	3
Females	21	10	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	26	13

The number of new notifications of tuberculosis showed a sharp increase during 1970. This increase also occurred in Gosforth and in Castle Ward as the accompanying table shows, and in fact the increase in the number of cases in the South Area accounted for most of the increase in the cases in Northumberland. The matter was discussed with the Chest Physicians at Newcastle East and Newcastle West Chest Clinic, but as far as could be seen there was no connection between the cases and the reasons for the increase remain unknown.

Comparison with other areas 1956-70 All Notified Cases

	1956-60	1961-65	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Northumberland (Admin. County)	393	216	131	121	108	70	104
Newcastle upon Tyne (C.B.)	315	176	122	116	95	101	104
Gosforth U.D.	23	13	12	9	8	6	13
Newburn U.D.	20	16	7	8	7	4	13
Castle Ward R.D.	9	10	6	8	6	4	10

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Notifications Received 1970

Disease	Age						
	0-1	1-4	5-14	15-44	45-64	65+	Total
Measles	20	264	158	-	-	-	442
Infective Jaundice	-	1	13	4	-	-	18
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	6	1	-	-	-	7
Salmonella Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

MONTH OF NOTIFICATION

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	16	105	115	52	52	33	27	14	5	1	8	14	442
Infective Jaundice	4	4	1	5	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	18
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	1	7
Salmonella Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

PARATYPHOID

A lady who had been on holiday in Spain with her family from August 14th to 29th became ill with a temperature on September 5th, and later developed symptoms suggestive of enteric fever. This was confirmed by laboratory examination when *Salmonella paratyphi C* (Sub-type Beccles) was grown. No other members of the family were affected.

The Department of Health in London were contacted, and also the firm which had organised the tour, and owned the hotel at which the family stayed. No other cases were reported.

SALMONELLA INFECTION

A baby admitted to hospital was found to be infected with *Salmonella typhimurium*. Subsequently other members of the family became infected, and it was three to four months before everyone was clear.

Two members of a family who had been on holiday in Yorkshire became ill and also were found to have *Salmonella typhimurium* infection.

Three further single cases of *Salmonella typhimurium* infection occurred.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

Cases occurred in the first half of the year. All were visited. While in three instances family spread took place in the others it was not possible to find any source for the infection.

INFLUENZA

There was a sharp outbreak beginning in the last week of 1969, and reaching its peak in the first two weeks in January, and thereafter diminishing rapidly. All but one of the seven deaths attributed to influenza occurred in the first three weeks of January, and during this time there was an increased number of deaths from all respiratory diseases and from all causes.

The office of the Ministry of Social Security which deals with this area and part of Newcastle reported claims 286% above the Summer average during the week ending 7th January, 1970. The figure was 294% the following week and 130% on the week ending 21st January.

While no specimens were taken from this area, specimens elsewhere showed that the outbreak was due to the Hong Kong variant of the influenza A2 virus. The outbreak seemed to affect particularly people in the middle age groups and was relatively sparing in its effects on children and on the elderly.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination are now given according to the following schedule:-

<u>Visits</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>
1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
2	6 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
3	12 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis
4	2nd year	Measles
5	2nd year	Smallpox
6	4 - 5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis
7	10 - 12 years	B.C.G. (if necessary after skin test)
8	12 - 14 years	Rubella (girls only)
9	on leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis

The numbers immunised are given on page 21. The Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis are below those of last year.

Measles vaccination was introduced in 1968 when children under the age of seven were done. In 1969 the principal manufacturer of the vaccine had to withdraw supplies and only 210 children were done. Supplies of vaccine did not become fully available until mid 1970 and unfortunately by that time there had been quite a large outbreak of measles.

In the Autumn of 1970 rubella vaccine was introduced. Rubella in itself is not a serious disease, but its importance lies in the possibility that if a woman is infected in the early months of pregnancy this can lead to malformation of the foetus. The vaccine is being offered to girls only in their 14th year, i.e. well before the years of child bearing.

NUMBERS IMMUNISED DURING 1970

	Year of Birth						
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66	1954-62	Total
Primary Triple	2	370	40	6	5	-	423
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	2	-	2	25	12	41
Primary Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Primary Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Reinforcing Triple	-	47	32	55	235	-	369
Reinforcing Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	-	1	10	420	4	435
Reinforcing Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reinforcing Tetanus	-	-	-	-	5	22	27
Primary Polio	1	342	43	8	35	22	451
Reinforcing Polio	-	1	32	58	640	357	1083
Primary Smallpox Vaccination	3	79	60	11	6	6	165
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	-	2	2	5
Measles Vaccination	-	111	89	33	88	-	320
Rubella Vaccination	-	-	-	-	-	237	237

HOUSING

During 1970 the Council changed their policy with regard to letting of council houses. Previously there was a points scheme, and if there appeared to be individual need, points were added according to the degree of need. The Council decided to deal with applications purely on data order. However they agreed to consider any case where medical need appeared to be urgent. Six such cases were recommended during the year. Five were re-housed within a short time and the remaining case declined the offer of accommodation.

Altogether 104 medical notes were examined. Many referred to exchanges from existing council houses. Some people appear very deserving on medical grounds and are recommended, but subsequently make so many qualifications about the type of house they require, that it is impossible to meet their needs in the short term.

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for 1970.

One of the most satisfying parts of the work of a public health inspector is the eradication of unfit property with the consequent improvement in the housing conditions of the families displaced. Progress in this connection has been steady, and during the past twelve years an average of some 60 houses per year have been demolished. This year, however, better progress was made as a result of the Millfield Compulsory Purchase Order being confirmed, and 146 houses were demolished. The Millfield area had been deteriorating fairly rapidly, and it was with some satisfaction we saw the houses demolished and the site cleared.

Agreement was reached with the National Coal Board for the closure of 18 houses in Denton Grove, Westerhope as they became vacant, the houses being classed as unfit. At the end of the year 17 houses had been closed. A similar agreement was reached with J.M. Clark & Partners, Newcastle, agents for the old 'colliery' property at North Walbottle, 36 houses being closed.

The number of applications for improvement grants increased to 58 as against 38 in the previous year, bringing the total number of houses improved since the inception of the schemes to 670. Apart from preserving property which otherwise may have eventually been included in clearance areas, the improvements provided by grant have greatly increased the well-being of the occupiers.

In last year's report I had to mention with regret that progress in smoke control had been retarded because of the inadequate supplies of solid smokeless fuel, but even worse, in 1970 was the suspension of smoke control orders Nos. 1 and 2 at Throckley and West Denton respectively, affecting some 2,800 houses, the suspension being effective until April 1971. Fortunately towards the end of the year there were signs of an improvement in the solid smokeless fuel situation, and prospects for renewed progress in smoke control were brighter.

Smoke Control Order No. 11 in respect of houses at the western part of the district was confirmed, but its operation deferred until August 1971.

Readings from the daily smoke and sulphur dioxide apparatus sited at Newburn and Westerhope showed that over a period of years, although the number of houses in the district had increased considerably, the amount of smoke had continued to decrease, while the amount of sulphur dioxide has remained fairly constant. This would seem to show that the policy of including all new estates in smoke control areas was having the desired effect. The increased use of electricity and gas in place of solid fuel was also a contributory factor in the improvement of the atmosphere.

Enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations continued to entail a fair proportion of the work of the Department and opportunity was taken to advise shop assistants of the need for careful attention to proper systems of stock rotation. Particular attention was given to those shops where customers had bought food found to be affected with mould. Suggestions regarding the use of a method of date coding to help in preventing goods exceeding their recommended 'shelf life' were also made.

The number of inspections made in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 was greater than in the previous year, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. Although there are 180 premises on the register, only in 12 cases were contraventions of the Act discovered.

Two accidents were reported and investigated, but fortunately neither was of a serious nature.

A bonus scheme for the refuse collection service was introduced after a comprehensive study by the Management Services Department. In accordance with Council policy there were no redundancies, but it was agreed that reduction in the labour force would occur only by retirement or resignation. This meant that maximum bonus would not be achieved for some time, but even so, the immediate cash benefit was on average £3.50 per man per week.

The total volume if not the weight of refuse continued to increase and requests for removal of bedding, furniture etc. were more numerous than in the previous year.

The acquisition of a Massey-Ferguson crawler/loader helped considerably to improve conditions on the tip, but present day refuse makes controlled tipping a difficult operation. I look forward to the day when all our refuse is disposed of by incineration. Unfortunately it is not expected that the incinerator at Byker will be in operation until late 1974.

Dr. Smith has referred to Mrs. Watson's retirement, and I would like to associate myself with his remarks, and to record my gratitude to Mrs. Watson for her support and encouragement over a number of years.

The staff of the Department have carried out their duties conscientiously, and my thanks are due to all of them including Mr. Gray, foreman, and Mr. Charlton, rodent operator.

In conclusion I wish to thank Dr. Smith and the other chief officers for their willing assistance, and Councillor Chapman and members of the committee for their encouragement.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. CORNEY,

Chief Public Health Inspector

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

Nature of Inspection							Visits
Caravan Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Clean Air Act		..	..	..	..	..	420
Civic Amenities Act			..	..	..	..	74
Disinfestation		..	..	..	..	..	126
Factories Act		..	..	..	..	..	48
Food & Drugs Act		..	..	..	..	..	87
Food Hygiene Regulations				..	..	..	94
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	..	867
Infectious Disease			..	..	..	..	209
Meat Inspection		..	..	..	..	..	39
Noise Abatement Act			..	..	..	..	4
Nuisance	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act						..	206
Refuse Collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Rodent Control		..	..	..	..	..	600
Special	..	..	..	..	..	..	187
Water Supply - Baths			..	..	..	..	10
							<u>3,040</u>

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1970

New Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	342	—	342
(b) By any other Housing Authority	262	—	262
(c) By Private Persons	—	100	100

Total number of inhabited houses in district	13,313
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	4,014

CLOSING AND DEMOLITION

(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	55
(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	8
(3) House closed not demolished	196
(4) Any other house permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	Nil

REPAIRS

Houses made fit	
(5) By informal action	31
(6) By owners, following statutory notice	21
(7) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(8) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) Discretionary

(1)	Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	6
(2)	Applications rejected	Nil
(3)	Applications approved	6
(4)	Approximate average grant approved per house	£283
(5)	Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme	325

(b) Standard

	During the year	Total to date
(1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	52	345
(2) Number of houses so provided with:-		
(i) Bath or shower	20	198
(ii) Wash hand basin	24	217
(iii) Hot water supply	61	235
(iv) Water closet	50	306
(v) Sink	8	8

CLEARANCE AREA PROGRAMME

No. of houses demolished 1957 to 1969 - 653

Individual Unfit Houses closed - 39

1970

Location	No. of houses to be demolished
Coniston Avenue, Newburn	55
Dene View, Newburn	22
Millfield Crescent, Newburn	86
Millfield Lane, Newburn	38
Denton Grove, Westerhope	18

Individual Unfit Houses Closed:-

North Walbottle - 36

Lemington - 8

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART 1 OF THE ACT
INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	2	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	48	44	1	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	6	2		-
TOTAL	56	48	1	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (b) Unsuitable or defective.	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

PART VIII - OUTWORK (SECTION 113)

Nature of work	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 113 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing apparel: Making	5	-	-
TOTAL	5	-	-

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(a) Unsound Food - Section 2

1. Cream cake affected with mould. Manufacturer fined £25 with £3 advocate's fee.
2. Plastic medicine spoon found in bottle of milk. Manufacturer fined £10 with £5 costs.
3. Piece of metal found in loaf of bread. Manufacturer fined £10 with £3 advocate's fee.
4. Jam Souflette affected with mould. Vendor fined £25 with £5 advocate's fee.
5. Steak and kidney pie affected with mould. Vendor fined £25.

(b) Milk Supplies

Samples of milk retailed in the Urban District are taken by the County Health Inspector. Forty samples were submitted for examination, and all passed the appropriate tests except two which failed the Methylene Blue test.

(c) Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(d) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

The total number of food premises subject to these regulations is 185, comprising 131 shops, 27 canteens, 16 public houses, 10 clubs and 1 mussels bottling factory.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 is as follows:-

Butcher	..	..	..	..	17
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	8
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	72
Mussels	..	..	..	..	1
					<hr/>
					98
					<hr/>

(e) Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

(f) Food Inspections

Unsound Food Surrendered				Cwts.	lbs.
Canned meats	..	..	..	1	0
Other canned foods	..	..	..	2	75
Frozen foods due to cabinet breakdown					35
Other foods	..	..	..	2	0

(g) Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Number of Registered Dairies	4
Number of registered Distributors	46

(h) Ice Cream Premises

Number on Register at end of year	72
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(i) Slaughterhouses

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	1
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(j) Meat Inspection

Number of carcasses inspected:-

Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
262	727	40

Total weight of condemned meat - 2 cwts. 100 lbs.

Condemned meat was disposed of by means of an incinerator operated by the owners of the slaughterhouse.

WATER SUPPLY

The district's water is supplied by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Examinations:- Laboratory reports submitted by the Company indicate that there were 1,001 control samples taken throughout the year for bacteriological examination, all but one proved excellent.

The chemical composition of domestic water remained unchanged, flouride being added at the rate of 1.0 milligrammes per litre.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises registered during the year (2)	Number of Registered Premises at end of year (3)	Number of Registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	6	28	17
Retail Shops	16	131	116
Wholesale Shops, and Warehouses	2	4	2
Catering establishments open to the public	—	17	17
TOTALS ..	24	180	152

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Nature of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	3
6	Temperature	1
8	Lighting	3
16	Floors, passage and stairs ..	4
24	First Aid	1
	TOTAL ..	12

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

Name or Description of Area and Date of Operation	Acreage	No. of Properties
Newburn No. 1 (Throckley) October 1962	128.0	1175
Newburn No. 2 (West Denton) October 1961	190.0	1741
Newburn No. 3 (West Denton) September, 1965	22.0	210
Newburn No. 4 (Westerhope/West Denton) July, 1966	222.4	1885 (2,000)
Newburn No. 5 (West Avenue) January, 1966	4.8	56
Newburn No. 6 (South Denton) July, 1966	11.0	135
Newburn No. 7 (Walbottle) August, 1967	14.0	77
Newburn No. 8 (Lemington) August, 1967	31.0	279
Newburn No. 9 (Lemington) July, 1969	17.0	262
Newburn No. 10 (Lemington) July, 1969	52.0	58 (550)
Newburn No. 11 (Throckley) August, 1971	104.2	216

NOTE: The figures in brackets refer to the estimated number of properties which will be included in smoke control areas when the housing estates are completed.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following return is forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food relating to action taken during the year ended 31st December, 1970.

	Type of Property	
	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1 Number of properties in district	14,056	46
2 (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	249	1
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	233	1
(ii) Mice	16	-
3 (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	-	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	-	-
(ii) Mice	-	-

